

BEFORE THE FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

INQUIRY CONCERNING A
JUDGE, NO. 03-45, 03-57 and 03-215

Supreme Court Case No.:

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL

This matter is before the Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission pursuant to Rule 6(j) of the Commission upon the factual stipulation of the parties and the waiver of further hearing by the respondent.

Upon consideration of the Notice of Investigation and the Stipulation of the parties the Investigative Panel makes the following findings:

- A. The respondent is guilty as charged in the Notice of Investigation.
- B. The respondent has no other disciplinary history and is a relatively new judge without significant prior civil experience. She encountered other problems set forth in the Stipulation. The Commission finds that regardless of these circumstances it was her duty and responsibility to expeditiously decide the issues presented and issue rulings, notwithstanding any extenuating circumstances, and that she bears ultimate responsibility when this duty is not discharged. There was therefore an impact on the

administration of justice. A reprimand is a suitable penalty for this Court to impose in this instance and the Investigative Panel so recommends.

DATED: This _____ day of _____, 2004.

INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE
FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION

By: _____
Richard C. McFarlain, Chair
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission
1110 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 488-1581

Certificate of Service

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Findings and Recommendation of the Investigative Panel has been furnished by **United States Certified Mail** #7001 2510 0007 6248 6269, Return Receipt Requested, to the Honorable Meryl L. Allawas, Circuit Judge, Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, 2825 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940 on this 29th day of July, 2004.

/s/ _____
Brooke S. Kennerly
Executive Director
Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission